

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 6557 SUBMITTED BY BARBARA DONAHUE

I am writing in support of HB 6557, which would restore recreational liability protection to municipalities --- the same liability protection that is enjoyed by private landowners and the state of Connecticut, and the same protection that municipalities had enjoyed for 25 years before a court case (*Conway v. Wilton*) took it away.

I am 81 years old and have been walking, biking, cross-country skiing or running in the MDC Reservoir for most of those years. I've seen families, young couples, oldsters, school running teams and countless other groups and individuals enjoying the fresh air and opportunity for exercise that the Reservoir has offered us all this time. I've seen accidents. But not once have I seen anyone prepared to sue the MDC because of an accident. Typically, people who use the MDC land for recreation are prepared for exercise, with decent shoes, helmets, if needed, etc. It would be a crying shame to stifle their chance for exercise and enjoyment because of one law suit.

Thank you.

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